

# EXHIBIT A

**CERTIFICATION OF  
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO  
PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS**

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio ("STRS") declares, as follows:

1. STRS has reviewed the complaint filed against Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("Merrill Lynch") and certain of its officers and directors captioned *Life Enrichment Foundation v. Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., et al.*, 07-CV-09633 (S.D.N.Y.).
2. STRS has retained as co-lead counsel in this litigation the law firms of Berger & Montague, P.C., Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP, and Schiffrin Barroway Topaz & Kessler, LLP. STRS did not purchase the security that is the subject of this action at the direction of its counsel or in order to participate in any private action arising under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (the "PSLRA").
3. STRS is willing to serve as a representative party on behalf of the class in this litigation and to testify at deposition and trial, if necessary.
4. STRS's transactions in Merrill Lynch securities that are the subject of the complaint are set forth on Schedule A attached hereto.
5. STRS has not served as, or sought to serve as, a representative party on behalf of a class action filed under the PSLRA during the three-year period preceding the date on which this Certification is signed, except the following:
  - a) *Zuckerman v. Scottish Re Group LTD, et al.*, Case No. 06-cv-5853, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Appointed).
  - b) *Freudenberg v. E\*Trade Financial Corp., et al.*, Civil Action No. 07-cv-8538 U. S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Application Pending).
  - c) *Bakshi v. Samuelli*, No. 2:06-cv-5036, U.S. District Court, Central District of California.<sup>1</sup>
6. STRS will not accept any payment for serving as a representative party, except to receive its pro rata share of any recovery as ordered or approved by the Court and any award to it by the Court of reasonable costs and expenses (including lost wages and travel expenses) directly relating to its representation of the class.

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<sup>1</sup> STRS subsequently withdrew its application for appointment as lead plaintiff in *Bakshi v. Samuelli*.

I declare under penalty of perjury that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2008.

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

By: William J. Neville  
William J. Neville

Title: General Counsel  
General Counsel, STRS Ohio

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**SCHEDULE A**

<b>OHIO - STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS)</b>							
<b>Merrill Lynch &amp; Co., Inc.</b>							
<b>Transactions During Class Period: October 17, 2006 through November 7, 2007</b>							
<b>Trade Date</b>	<b>Transaction Type</b>	<b>No. Shares Bought</b>	<b>Purchase Price / Share</b>	<b>Purchase Cost</b>	<b>No. Shares Sold</b>	<b>Price / Share Sold</b>	<b>Sales Proceeds</b>
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>		<b>2,142,400</b>					
<b>CLASS PERIOD TRANSACTIONS</b>							
10/23/06	BUY	140,000	\$85.4004	\$ 11,956,056			
11/09/06	SELL				900	\$87.8911	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
11/09/06	SELL				14,959	\$88.4437	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
11/09/06	SELL				5,500	\$88.7550	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
11/10/06	SELL				5,341	\$87.8597	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
11/13/06	SELL				2,500	\$89.6516	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
11/21/06	SELL				2,400	\$91.9030	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
12/11/06	BUY	600	\$90.7118	\$ 54,427			
01/08/07	SELL				1,000	\$92.9965	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
01/09/07	SELL				2,400	\$92.8091	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
01/19/07	SELL				38,000	\$95.6015	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
01/29/07	SELL				200	\$93.1437	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
02/15/07	BUY	700	\$93.7159	\$ 65,601			
02/22/07	SELL				2,300	\$92.0082	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
02/27/07	BUY	25,000	\$84.9600	\$ 2,124,000			
03/07/07	SELL				7,800	\$82.9799	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
03/14/07	SELL				175,000	\$79.0333	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
03/23/07	BUY	53,000	\$85.5342	\$ 4,533,313			

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04/04/07	BUY	12,000	\$85.3588	\$ 1,024,306			
04/05/07	SELL				2,100	\$85.9413	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
04/18/07	BUY	36,000	\$90.9394	\$ 3,273,818			
04/23/07	BUY	110,000	\$91.6215	\$ 10,078,365			
04/24/07	BUY	70,000	\$90.7283	\$ 6,350,981			
05/31/07	SELL				57,200	\$92.7300	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
06/15/07	BUY	2,500	\$90.6837	\$ 226,709			
06/22/07	BUY	2,800	\$85.2750	\$ 238,770			
06/22/07	SELL				20,800	\$84.4800	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
06/29/07	BUY	50,000	\$83.7298	\$ 4,186,490			
06/29/07	BUY	25,000	\$83.2596	\$ 2,081,490			
07/05/07	BUY	28,100	\$83.9786	\$ 2,359,799			
07/10/07	SELL				7,400	\$84.2045	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
07/12/07	SELL				192,600	\$84.1803	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
07/13/07	BUY	40,000	\$86.6457	\$ 3,465,828			
07/18/07	BUY	50,000	\$84.2665	\$ 4,213,325			
07/20/07	BUY	15,000	\$80.0400	\$ 1,200,600			
07/23/07	SELL				36,400	\$80.1080	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
07/26/07	BUY	25,000	\$75.4144	\$ 1,885,360			

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07/26/07	BUY	25,000	\$74.1078	\$ 1,852,695				
08/01/07	BUY	30,000	\$72.4041	\$ 2,172,123				
08/07/07	SELL					1,500	\$75.4683	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
08/10/07	BUY	6,000	\$73.6891	\$ 442,135				
08/13/07	BUY	4,000	\$74.9555	\$ 299,822				
08/14/07	SELL					29,200	\$71.6183	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
08/22/07	BUY	20,000	\$77.2384	\$ 1,544,768				
08/22/07	BUY	70,000	\$76.9249	\$ 5,384,746				
08/30/07	BUY	10,000	\$72.0906	\$ 720,906				
09/11/07	SELL					2,000	\$73.0152	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
09/18/07	SELL					2,300	\$74.1677	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
09/18/07	SELL					4,700	\$74.1089	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
09/21/07	BUY	11,000	\$74.7300	\$ 822,030				
09/24/07	ACQUISITION	788	\$73.6800	\$ 58,060 <sup>1</sup>				
10/01/07	SELL					51,400	\$73.5859	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
10/10/07	SELL					33,800	\$74.3542	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
10/10/07	SELL					7,600	\$74.4389	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
10/15/07	SELL					1,200	\$74.3662	N/A - match to pre-class holdings
10/23/07	BUY	60,000	\$65.5831	\$ 3,934,986				

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10/30/07	BUY	60,000	\$65.9124	\$ 3,954,744			
11/02/07	BUY	87,000	\$56.7250	\$ 4,935,075			
11/05/07	BUY	90,000	\$56.4633	\$ 5,081,697			
<b>CLASS PD TOTALS</b>		<b>1,159,488</b>		<b>\$ 90,523,024</b>	<b>708,500</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>RETAINED 11/07/07</b>		<b>2,593,388</b>					
<b>CLASS PD. RETAINED</b>		<b>1,159,488</b>	(No. of shares purchased in the class period & still held at close on 11/07/07)				
<b>Note:</b>							
<sup>1</sup> Merrill Lynch shares acquired in acquisition of First Republic valued as of closing price on 9/24/07							